



Learning Focus—Exploring Patterns

This module gives your child experiences in identifying colors, describing objects as the same or different, identifying and sorting by designs, identifying patterns and non-patterns, and finally, copying and creating patterns.

Identify and sort objects by color

Children identify and recognize objects first by color, then by texture, sound, taste, and by use or function. Experiences such as these help develop observational and analytical skills.



Encourage your child to describe produce at the store. For example, hand them an orange and ask them to tell you about the color, texture, and shape.

Identify objects as the same or different

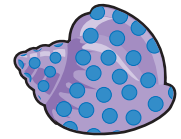
Identifying and describing objects that are the same or different (e.g. in color, texture, sound, shape, and so on) builds the ability to see detail in objects and situations. This enables children to use critical reasoning in later elementary mathematics.



Ask your child if two objects are the same or different. For example, hold up a package of Swiss cheese and a package of cheddar cheese to compare the two.

Identify and sort objects by designs

The natural world presents everyday examples of same and different designs. Children identify, describe, and sort objects by the designs they can see (e.g. on seashells, butterflies, and animals) then extending to manufactured objects that show striped, spotted, and checkered designs.



Identify patterns and non-patterns

Recognizing patterns of objects, actions, pictures, or sounds, and differentiating between patterns and non-patterns are vital skills that are used and developed in elementary algebra and problem solving.



Encourage your child to find patterns on the floor, on the shelves, and at the check-out counter. Patterns could include colors, sounds, or shapes.

Copy and create repeating patterns

Copying repeating patterns and creating new and different repeating patterns require children to be observant, and to think logically and analytically, all of which are the skills of a proficient problem solver.

Please help by sending the following:

- Articles of different sized clothing: shirts, shorts, pants
- One pair of socks—send a unique texture if possible
- Child-friendly magazines, catalogs, and mailers